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NOTES ON COTTUS ASPER AND COTTUS ALEUTICUS

1. *Cottus asper* Richardson.

This species¹ has been noted from but one stream in California south of Monterey County, Dr. Jordan having recorded² specimens (which have been re-examined), under the erroneous identification of *Cottus gulosus*, from San Luis Creek. Despite this single record, *Cottus asper* is common near the mouths of streams in San Luis Obispo County: the writer has seined numerous examples in the fresh tide-water of Morro, Chorro, Oso and San Luis Creeks. Others were obtained farther south, in the slightly brackish lagoon at the mouth of Santa Inez River, Santa Barbara County; and a single one in the brackish lagoon at the mouth of Ventura River, Ventura County, which becomes the southernmost record-station for the species.

In a few of the specimens from Morro and Chorro Creeks the prickles cover the entire body, but in all of the others mentioned above, the prickly area is reduced to a patch of varying size behind the base of the pectoral fin. Dorsal rays, IX (X in one case), 19 or 20; anal rays, 16 to 18 (the last soft-ray counted as branched).

The largest of these specimens, 145 mm. long to the caudal fin (captured alive), had swallowed and was digesting a half-grown individual of the same species, so large that its tail still protruded from the mouth of its capturer.

2. *Cottus aleuticus* Gilbert.

A single specimen of this sculpin was taken in a very small stream, near its mouth, in northern San Luis Obispo County, between the town of San Simeon and the light-house at Piedras Blancas, California. The species has never before been recorded so far south.

¹Concerning the systematic and distributional status of this species see: Snyder, Bull. U. S. Bur. Fish., 27, 1907 (1908), p. 185.

²Bull. N. S. Fish. Comm., 14, 1894, p. 141.

Dorsal rays, IX, 19; anal rays, 12 (the last branched).

CARL L. HUBBS,
University of Michigan.

DOES THE CRICKET FROG OCCUR IN NEW ENGLAND?

The Cricket Frog, *Acris gryllus* (Le Conte), is included in Mr. Henshaw's list of New England Batrachia (1904). This is based on a hear-say record in Cope's "Batrachia of North America" (1899). Cope says:—"Prof. A. E. Verrill tells me that he has seen a few specimens of this species near New Haven, Conn., and that he considers that place to be about the northern limit of its range." Drowne includes it in the Batrachia of Rhode Island (Monograph No. 15, Roger Williams Park Museum, 1905), based on the following:—"Recorded from Rhode Island by Prof. Barlow of Kingston."

This interesting "tree frog with wholly terrestrial habits" while diurnal in its activity, is difficult to capture or even observe owing to its very small size, great leaping powers and quickness in diving. It is said to be common in portions of Long Island. I have been unable to locate any actual New England specimens. The above evidence seems hardly to warrant its inclusion in a New England faunal list.

H. L. BABCOCK,
Boston Society Natural History.
